

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
July 2021

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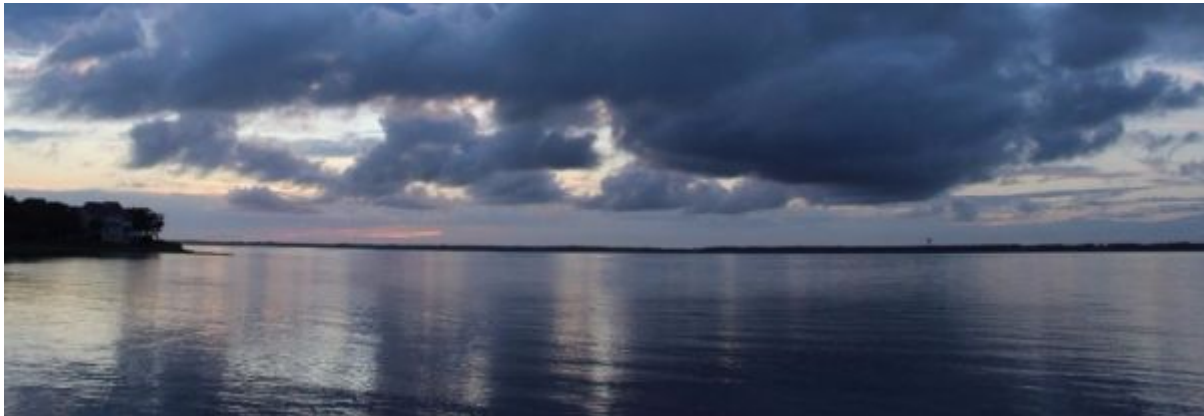
Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership



Sound Stories

July 2021



Since the waterways of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system by and large flow into North Carolina's sounds, it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that a substantial portion of the watershed itself is located in Virginia. Building and maintaining connections between these two states, however, is vital to the continued health and vitality of the estuarine system as a whole.

In working towards that goal, APNEP has been facilitating collaboration through the development of [Memoranda of Understanding](#) between the natural resource and environmental agencies in both states since 2017. Through these agreements, we've brought together experts from Virginia and North Carolina to tackle regional issues such as nonpoint source pollution, restoring fish passage and spawning habitat, and controlling invasive species. We plan to continue facilitating these interstate partnerships for years to come, but invite you at this time to check out our [recently published report](#) detailing these efforts.

We also want to remind our partners that we are accepting applications for the [FY2021](#)

heather.jennings@apnep.org.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bill Crowell
APNEP Director

APNEP News



Need funding for environmental education and citizen stewardship in the Albemarle-Pamlico region?



APPLY FOR APNEP'S ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP GRANT



Applications due July 30th

State, interstate, local, and tribal governments/agencies, nonprofits, and schools/universities may apply for up to \$20,000 in funding.

Proposals should address one or more of the following: water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, coastal habitats, or increasing resiliency.

Contact heather.jennings@apnep.org for assistance with the application process. Visit tinyurl.com/apnepgrant for more details.



Apply by 7/30 for APNEP's Engagement and Stewardship RFP

Need funding for environmental engagement and stewardship initiatives in the Albemarle-Pamlico region? APNEP is awarding a total of up to \$40,000 to two or more projects that increase citizen stewardship, volunteerism, and environmental literacy in the Albemarle-Pamlico area. Applications are due by midnight on July 30th. Find more info at tinyurl.com/apnepgrant and please share this opportunity with your networks!



SAV Spotlight

Check out this [fun informational video](#) from the [NC Coastal Habitat Coalition](#) that visually illustrates some of the findings from the recent APNEP-funded [SAV Economic Valuation report](#)! The report was also covered in a [segment by Public Radio East](#). The report quantifies the economic importance of submerged aquatic vegetation in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary, showing that losses from declines in NC seagrass decline could reach \$88 million by 2030 if SAV is not protected.

Read the SAV Economic Valuation Report



NC-VA Memorandum of Understanding Report Published

In 2020, APNEP facilitated the signing of an MOU by six environmental and natural resource agencies from North Carolina and Virginia that reaffirmed their commitment to foster interstate collaboration within shared waterways of the Albemarle-Pamlico region. This month, APNEP [published a report](#) on our website detailing actions and progress made in this effort, including tackling regional issues such as nonpoint source pollution, restoring fish passage and spawning habitat, and controlling invasive species. Stay tuned for more NC-VA collaboration updates! [Read the report.](#)

- **APNEP Air Resources Monitoring and Assessment Team Meeting (July 20th):** The Air Resources Monitoring & Assessment Team convened on July 20 to review past progress then to consider objectives for the next six to nine months. The focal indicators for this meeting was nutrient deposition, with an August meeting to focus on climate indicators.
- **APNEP Ecological Flows Action Team Meeting (July 21st):** The East Carolina University team provided an update on the Phase II pilot project in the Trent River Watershed of the Neuse River Basin, sharing data compiled to date, sampling locations, the stakeholder engagement strategy, and soliciting input from the flows team on data gaps for both water resources and biological data in the watershed. [Learn more about the Team.](#)



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

- **Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Steering Committee Meeting** | August 3rd, TBD (contact apnep@ncdenr.gov for details)
- **APNEP Leadership Council Meeting** | August 4th, 11:00am - 2:00pm (visit [our website](#) for details)
- **APNEP Science and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting** | August 18th, TBD (contact apnep@ncdenr.gov for details)



- July 30: [APNEP Engagement and Stewardship RFP](#)
- September 10: [205\(j\) Watershed Planning Grant](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

Grant details

Partner Spotlight



APNEP-Sea Grant Fellow Sends Updates from the Field

Our 2021 [APNEP-North Carolina Sea Grant joint graduate research fellow](#), Stacy Trackenberg of the [East Carolina University Coastal Studies Institute](#), captured these awesome photos in the field last week. She and her colleagues set up SMURFs and minnow traps to sample faunal communities and squid pops to measure of predation. Don't be surprised if they're not like the cartoons... these SMURFs are actually Standard Monitoring Units for the Recruitment of Fishes! Check out her website to learn more about her projects!

[Check out the website](#)

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What We're Reading

- [Update: The Effects of Upstream Plastic Pollution on Coastal NC](#) (*NC Sea Grant Coastwatch*)
- [UNC Institute's shark survey a trove of 50 years of data](#) (*Coastal Review Online*)
- [North Carolina's Very Hungry Caterpillars](#) (*NC State Extension*)



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